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Reunion Christmas concert planned
Summer trap shooting
Special Olympics
New pastor at Staples Alliance Church
How do wild animals keep cool?



Staples World

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

Staples, Minnesota

\$1²⁵

Hot enough for ya?

Temperatures reached 102 degrees in Staples July 26, according to the digital sign at First International Bank and Trust. Dower Lake in Staples was a popular destination for people looking to cool off that afternoon. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Deep cleaning the school

Trevor Lucas and Ashlee Lucas, custodians at Staples-Motley Elementary School, have been busy deep cleaning the facility this summer. Their duties have included waxing floors, cleaning carpets, scrubbing walls, desks, etc. The husband and wife team were commended for their hard work by Principal Ryan Koenigs at the Staples-Motley School Board meeting July 21. They moved here from Walker, the Lucases shared, adding that they found better job opportunities in Staples and were able to purchase a home. They also love the school district, of which their two daughters, Abbie and Caitlynn (ages 13 and 10 respectively), are a part of. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Weather

2026

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
July 29	93	70	Sunny
July 30	85	65	Rain
July 31	84	62	P. Cloudy
Aug. 1	86	62	Sunny
Aug. 2	87	67	M. Sunny
Aug. 3	88	62	M. Sunny
Aug. 4	80	57	M. Sunny

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
July 29	78°	65	Sunny
July 30	77	63	Sunny
July 31	73	55	M. Sunny
Aug. 1	76	56	M. Sunny
Aug. 2	72	54	M. Sunny
Aug. 3	65	61	Showers
Aug. 4	71	60	Cloudy

Average Temps:
H = 7 81° Low = 59°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

ISD #2170 9A

Cass County 9A

Becker Township 9A

City of Staples 9A

Villard Township 9A

Todd County Notice to Voters 10A

Obituaries

Edward Jordahl

Mark Anderson
Publisher

The remains of Duane Walker Payne are coming back to his home town of Motley. Private Payne died in World War II, with three children still back home in Motley. He had been listed as Missing in Action (MIA) since Oct. 8, 1944, but his remains were identified this year. Payne will be interred at the Camp Ripley Military Cemetery at 2 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 11, but before that, his casket will be brought back to Staples and Motley. His casket will be flown to Minneapolis and the Patriot Guard will escort him to Staples, where the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel will hold a public viewing at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10. On Friday, Sept. 11, there will be a ceremony at the Veterans Park in Motley on his way to Camp Ripley. Payne's granddaughter Annette Brieger has spent years researching his military journey, with the end goal of finding out what happened on the day he went missing. Working with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and U.S. Department of Justice, she has helped find the remains of her grandfather. "When I was younger, it was a curiosity. As I got older it became an obsession, I had to do this for my dad," she said. Now that her search has been successful, Brieger has mixed emotions. "It's been emotional, it was bittersweet to finally have him identified," said



Family man sent to World War II

The three children of Duane and Lorna A. (Hagen) Payne soon before he was sent to Europe to fight in World War II. Their daughter, Clarice and sons Quentin and Joyce, lost their father before they had a chance to grow up with him. Joyce's daughter Annette Brieger said her grandmother Lorna was the one who kept Duane's memory alive for the family by telling stories about his disappearance. Brieger. "We have tears of sadness and tears of joy that he finally gets to come home and gets to be buried near his son." The search started with Brieger's grandmother Lorna, Duane's wife, who often told the story about his disappearance and kept his memory alive for the family. Lorna remarried after his death but was always wondering what happened to her husband. She died knowing that the search was still active but did not know if it would ever be successful. Brieger's father, Joyce (J.D.) Payne, grew up in Motley. Brieger said he never remembered his dad, who left for war before Joyce turned three. After graduating from Motley High School, Joyce also joined the military, spending a long career in the service. His father Duane Payne's MIA status was often on his mind. "He would say 'where is my dad?', we had lots of conversations about that," said Brieger. Joyce died in 2019, a little before the momentum of finding his father got rolling. "We're sad that dad's not here to witness this," said Brieger, "all he ever wanted was to bring him home." Before this new research, all they knew was that Duane Payne was fighting See PAYNE on page 12a



Duane Payne as a boy growing up in Motley.

The journey of Pvt. Payne: from Motley to Mariadorf, Germany

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

In a span of just eight months, Duane Payne made the trip from Motley to Brainerd to enlist in the U.S. Army, trained, flew to England, landed on the beaches of Normandy, chased the German army across Europe in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany, before getting killed in an explosion after a fierce battle against the German army. Thanks to the research of his granddaughter Annette Brieger, Payne's journey has been traced every step of the way. "I know exactly where

my grandpa was, I can track where he walked through, literally spell out everything," said Brieger. The one thing missing was his final moments, as the last known record of Payne was that he was heading back to a medical aid station. He had been missing for 82 years, until this year when his remains were identified. The journey A 1937 graduate of Motley High School and father of three young children, Duane Payne enlisted in the U.S. Army on Feb. 11, 1944, leaving his wife Lorna to take care of the children. After training, Payne was shipped to Europe

and landed on the beaches at Normandy, France, on June 14, eight days after the initial D-Day invasion on those beaches. Although he wasn't involved in that initial battle, he saw plenty of action as the Allied forces finished securing the coast and pursued the German Army. Payne was a part of Company L in the 3d Battalion, 117th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division. "They fought their way through France and liberated Paris," said Brieger. "They fought along the Seine Line to Belgium, trying get ahead of the Germans and stop them from getting behind their own borders."

Brieger's research includes detailed descriptions of the invasion of Germany. By late September, 1944, the 30th Infantry Division reached the German border. Believing they had their enemies on the run, they wanted to continue but were commanded to stop so supply lines could catch up. That also gave the German army time to set up more defenses. In early October, the division advanced into Germany. The 117th Infantry led the primary charge across the Wurm River in an attempt to break through See JOURNEY on page 12a

Sweet signs of summer...



Sandhill cranes stroll outside Motley

A pair of Sandhill cranes meandered Motley July 16. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Getting ready to compete

Elise Jensen of Pillager competed at the Pillager Fair's horse show July 11. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Pole weaving event

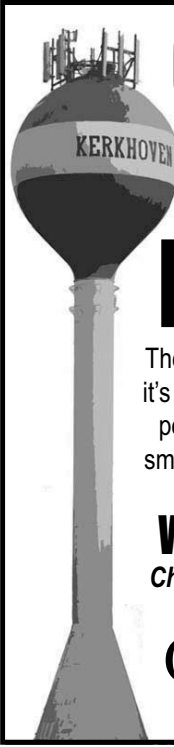
There were a number of competitive events at the Pillager Fair's horse show July 11, including pole weaving. Above is Carly Schultz of Staples riding Ruger, and below is Kaitlyn Schroeder of Pillager riding Sunshine. Ruger belonged to the late Jacob Borgstrom who competed at the Pillager Fair numerous times. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Cooling off at the fair

Brooklyn Christle, right, of Staples, sprayed her friends with water at the Pillager Fair July 11, helping cool them off on a 90-plus degrees day. From left, Fa-

elynn Mulholland and Temperance Jares, both of Pequot Lakes. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



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On display

Paintings, photography, crafts, baked goods, flowers and a variety of other handiwork were on display at the Cass County Pillager Fair's exhibit room. Dozens of people of all ages took home ribbons for their creations at the recent fair.



The Staples World newspaper thanks you for your continued support



New pastor

John Pavlica is the new lead pastor at Staples Alliance Church. A New York native, Pavlica spent the past 17 years serving churches in Pennsylvania. He and his wife, Jennifer, have four grown children. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

John Pavlica answered call to serve in Staples

John Pavlica is the new lead pastor at Staples Alliance Church. The Staples World reached out to Pavlica, inviting him to introduce himself to the community. Below are his answers to our questions.

PERSONAL INFO (HOMETOWN, FAMILY OR CONNECTIONS TO STAPLES AREA)

I grew up in New York, and began serving with the Alliance in Pennsylvania before my wife Jennifer and I made Minnesota our home.

I'm a graduate of Crown College in St. Bonifacius, where I received my Bachelor's degree in Ministry & Cultural Studies along with a Masters Degree in Global Leadership.

Along with serving at Staples Alliance Church, I also serve as an online adjunct professor at Crown College, teaching Global & Biblical Leadership.

Born and raised in the borough of Queens in New York City, I grew up in a diverse and vibrant community that shaped much of who I am today. My wife, Jennifer, is also a Queens native. We married while living in New York and moved to Pennsylvania the following year. Shortly after the birth of the first of our four children, I sensed a call to ministry. I began my theological training through an Alliance ministry school before transferring to Crown College to complete my degree.

I spent 17 years serving in rural Pennsylvania before moving to Staples. Over the past six years, a significant part of my ministry has involved partnering with churches to support refugees from countries including Afghanistan, Ukraine, Turkmenistan, Syria and others as they begin new lives in the United States. Through this work, I became certified as an ESL instructor and launched a ministry focused on teaching English to refugees adjusting to life in America.

As I continue serving at Staples, I hope to encourage our church to remain a loving, welcoming community—one that embraces and supports all people, including individuals and families arriving from around the world as they settle in our region.

WHAT FACTORS CONTRIBUTED TO YOUR CHOOSING THIS PROFESSION?

Shortly after Jennifer and I were married, I sensed God calling me into vocational ministry. It was God's calling that led me to pursue this role.

HOW DID YOU BECOME

ORDAINED/QUALIFIED FOR THIS POSITION?

I went to Crown College, where I received my degrees in ministry. I have been ordained by the Alliance since 2011.

HAVE YOU SERVED AT OTHER CHURCHES?

I've served in pastoral roles as a lead pastor as well in ministries of community outreach in churches in Pennsylvania.

I've also travelled and served short-term in different Latin American countries.

HOW DID YOU END UP IN THIS NEW POSITION?

A colleague at Crown College told me about this position. I met with Staples Alliance Church in May and we all realized God wanted to bring us together.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT THE PEOPLE IN YOUR NEW CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY?

We were warmly welcomed with genuine love at Staples Alliance Church. I came to a church family that has genuine love for each other as well as for the city of Staples. This love flows from the heart of God. I first sensed God's presence the weekend we came to explore this opportunity and it hasn't changed.

I've also met some other local pastors. They came to welcome me within a few days of my arrival. Neighbors have also extended their welcome. My wife began working at Lakewood Health, where she also found a wonderful welcoming environment.

FROM A RELIGIOUS ASPECT, DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS FOR THIS CHURCH?

Jesus promises to give us power from the Holy Spirit. My plan is to teach our church how to live in His power and presence daily, walking in a manner worthy of Jesus in all that we say and do, following His call to love Him and others.

DO YOU HAVE ANY FUTURE INITIATIVES OR CHANGES FOR THE CHURCH, THE CONGREGATION OR YOUR ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY?

Jesus gave us a commission to make disciples and to love our neighbors as ourselves. My goal is to shepherd Staples Alliance Church to love people as He does, meeting them where they're at, providing holistic care, while sharing His hope. Staples Alliance Church has been a part of our community for many years. I hope that we can continue to shine God's light into our community for years to come.

75 YEARS AGO - 1951

- July 26, 1951 - The gospel tent services, being conducted on the site of the southside skating rink, are drawing good attendance, according to Rev. R. T. Raine, of Pillager, who is in charge of the nightly services. The special tent services opened Sunday evening, July 22, at 8:15 o'clock. Services during the week are conducted each evening except Saturday and Monday evenings. Assisting Rev. Raine is Mrs. Raine, and the Rev. Alfred Swanson of McGregor.
- July 26, 1951 - Duane W. Neal, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Neal of Thomastown township, who was killed in an accident at Anchorage, Alaska, was buried from the Central

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
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Methodist church Wednesday afternoon, July 11.

Duane, who was employed with the Had-dock Engineer Company in Anchorage, toppled to his death from a load of cargo on a semi-trailer-truck on which he was riding July 5 on the Palmer Highway near the Richardson monument.

• July 26, 1951 - During the heavy thunderstorm early Thursday afternoon of this week, lightning struck the Carpenter home near the Nels Jacobson home on Third Street southwest in Staples.

• July 26, 1951 - The first canning of the 1951 season at the Staples canning center was done by John Rengel when he processed 41 cans of string beans Tuesday, July 17.

Second on the list was Mrs. Clint Miller with peas, and the third patron was Mrs. Ned Rundell of Vern-dale who processed apricots.

• July 26, 1951 - The famed "Wings Over Jordan" chorus will appear in Staples at the high school auditorium Thursday evening, Aug. 2, under the auspices of the Staples Men's Chorus.

The program for the evening will start at 8:15 o'clock, and there will be no charge for the entertainment. "Wings Over Jordan" has won the title of the world's most renowned Negro Choir. The idea for the development and necessity of this organization was conceived back in 1937 by the Rev. Glynn T. Settle, who at that time was the pastor of the Gethsemane Baptist Church of Cleveland, Ohio. Because of the lack of understanding between the two dominant races, Rev.

Settle was inspired to use his own church choir as a means of showing people of different races and creeds that the American Negro is a worthy, hard working citizen of a free land.

• July 26, 1951 - The big robbery at Motley Sunday, July 15, has been partially solved by officials when they were notified that the 300 pound safe belonging to the Morey Company had been found in one of the out buildings on a school ground south of Staples in the vicinity of the Trout and Kowalski families.

The wrecked safe was discovered by Joan and Frank Jr., Kowalski, of Philbrook as they were enroute to their home after having visited with neighbor children.

50 YEARS AGO - 1976

• July 15, 1976 - The Motley High School Band will hold a band concert in the Motley Memorial Park on Saturday evening, July 17, beginning at 6 o'clock. Mrs. Jeanne Rohr, band instructor will be in charge.

Pie and ice cream will be served, and the band will play interludes of music throughout the evening.

All money raised at the social will go for new band uniforms.

• July 15, 1976 - Fire of undetermined origin completely destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Winkels early Thursday afternoon, July 8.

The Winkels home is located about 12 miles northwest of Staples in Bullard Township of Wadena County. Members of the Staples Fire Department responded to the call shortly after 1 p.m.

Leo Fahnlander, fire chief, reported that Mrs. Winkels was home alone. She had been into the house for lunch and everything was alright. She went out to the barn to do some work and when she returned to the house about 1 p.m., the dwelling was completely filled with smoke.

The Verndale Fire Department assisted the local firemen with the supplying of water to fight the blaze, Fahnlander further reported.

• July 15, 1976 - Thomas E. Good of the State Farm Insurance Agency, Staples., was among the six area life insurance agents recently completing Part II of the Life Underwriter Training Council Course sponsored by the Paul Bunyan Association of Life Underwriters.

• July 15, 1976 - Rudy Fellman, son of Mrs. Audrey Fellman, Staples, recently enlisted in the U.S. Army. He is presently attending Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. After grad-



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1986. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where you're from to dtimbs@staplesworld.com by Friday, or call 218-894-1112. The answers will be published in next week's paper, as well as a new mystery photo.

uation from Basic Training, Fellman, a 1976 Staples High school grad, will attend the Army's Rough Terrain Forklift and Loader Operator school.

• July 15, 1976 - Tentative opening date for Nancy's Boutique in its new location is set for July 19, according to Nancy Sadusky, owner. She and her husband, John, have designed the remodeled interior decor of the former Ernie's Food Market, and work on the interior was expected to be completed this week.

25 YEARS AGO - 2001

• July 26, 2001 - Two young men from the Staples area earlier this year earned their Eagle Scout rank, the ranking for the Boy Scouts of America.

Erick Klein, son of Barry and Cindy Klein of Staples, and Durwyn Davis, son of Ken and Connie Davis of Bertha, both received their Eagle Scout at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor held June 2 at the Church o Christ in Staples. Both are members of the Stapes Troop 61, with Lowell Brenna as scoutmaster.

• July 26, 2001 - Ashlee DeLeon, 17, daughter of Richard and Brenda DeLeon of Motley has been selected as a state finalist in the Miss Minnesota American Coed Pageant to be held July 27 - 29 at the City Center Marriott Hotel in Minneapolis.

• July 26, 2001 - Eric Neznik will return to Centennial Auditorium to per-

form "An Evening of Love Songs" at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 7.

Neznik, a 1995 Staples Motley High School graduate who has performed at this venue three times before, will return to perform love songs in a variety of styles with friend Rachel Domier.

Also singing will be friends Amy Peterson (also playing fiddle), Amy Verlenich and Emily Goff. Joining Neznik and Domier will be Bryan Blessing on guitar and Jeff Iverson on saxophone.

• July 26, 2001 - The old "rumble bridge" that spanned the Wing River and carried a Wing River Township road's traffic for almost a century is now at its new home. It rests just off Wadena County Road 7 in front of the Clar-Mar Farms, home of Clarence and Mary Horsager.

After moving the bridge 1-1/2 miles to their farm, the Horsagers are planning a birthday bash Sunday afternoon in honor of the 100th anniversary of the bridge's initial construction.

10 YEARS AGO - 2016

• July 21, 2016 - Rita Stracek, Browerville, and Frank Leidenfrost, Staples, were crowned the Todd County Outstanding Senior Citizens for 2016. They received their crowns during a special part of the Todd County Council on Aging meeting July 15 at the Todd County Fair.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Aug. 11, 1977 edition of the Staples World featured winners from the tennis tournament, part of the summer recreation program of Staples. From left,

Kristi Wolhowe, runner-up for 10-12 year olds; Kim Peterson, champion of 10-12 year olds; Wendy Warn, runner-up for 8-9 year olds; Kyra Odden, champion of 8-9 year olds.

Lakewood Health System earns prestigious 2026 USA TODAY Top Workplaces Award

Lakewood Health System, Staples, is proud to announce it has earned the prestigious 2026 USA TODAY Top Workplaces award.

The award honors organizations with 150 or more employees that have created exceptional, people-first cultures. This year, more than 40,500 organizations were invited to participate. The winners are recognized for their commitment to fostering a workplace environment that values employee listening and engagement. USA TODAY showcased the

winners online and at the National Awards Summit in Nashville, Tenn.

The winners are determined by authentic employee feedback captured through a confidential survey conducted by Energage, the HR research and technology company behind the Top Workplaces program since 2006. The results are calculated based on employee responses to statements about Workplace Experience Themes, which are proven indicators of high performance.

"Lakewood employees

take a great deal of pride in the exceptional care they deliver to our patients and residents, as well as the strong reputation this creates within the community," said Lisa Bjerga, Lakewood President and CEO. "This award is a testament to our employees' commitment and engagement around not only our patients, but their teams and the community as a whole. We are honored to receive this award and are committed to continuing to build on our culture of excellence."

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Quote of the week

“So we’ll fill her up til de bottle’s drain
An’ drink to de Voyageur.”
— Sigurd F. Olson, Reflections from the North Country

Old Wadena Rendezvous is an earthy celebration

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Northern Minnesota was shaped by the voyageurs passing through and setting up trading posts, including one right here in our vicinity. The Old Wadena Rendezvous and Chautauqua brings that historical voyageur encampment back to life, this year Aug. 8-9.

This is a celebration that all of the locals should learn more about. It isn’t a fair or an amusement park celebration, you have to get involved in history and nature in order to appreciate it.

I can tell you one thing I did at last year’s event to make for an unbelievable experience. When Jake Kaehne was playing his traditional Ojibwe flute, I slipped out the back of the encampment and followed the trail through the woods. There were a few more mosquitos back there, but it didn’t matter because I could still hear the flute clearly and it brought the forest alive in a way I couldn’t believe was possible.

We have been pro-

grammed by movies and TV to associate soothing music with deep feelings, but let me tell you in this case it was real. Every little leaf and stick became vivid as the music washed through the trees. It was one of the coolest things I did all summer.

I suggest anyone attending this year’s rendezvous to find that woodland trail while the flute music is going, you’ll feel like you are in a live-action Disney movie.

The whole event is set up so that people can be enchanted in a similar way, if you can realize the long traditions of the crafts and demonstrations going on. Most of us are completely disconnected from the way our ancestors lived, this is a way to get back to that bygone way of life where maker knowledge meant the difference between thriving and struggling.

I always learn something new at this event, about nature, craftsmanship or the history of this area. It grounds me in the knowledge that we haven’t gone astray as a society as long as we honor our history.

How do wild things keep cool?

Minnesotans have been experiencing one of our trademark spells of hot summer weather. To call it “unseasonable” would be untrue, because anyone who has lived here for more than a few years knows that it’s anything but rare in July or August to have periods when temperatures climb into the nineties, and even reach the triple-digit, 100-degree mark. And, if extreme temperatures weren’t enough, add soaring dew points, and you have even higher “feels-like” heat readings.

We do have coping strategies. They might include spending more time indoors, limiting outdoor activity to the cooler early and later hours of the day, using fans to generate an artificial breeze, or—for those who have it—flipping the setting on the thermostat to A/C. And, by staying hydrated when outdoors, our body will do its best to regulate its internal temperature by sweating, our own biological cooling system.

All well and good for us. But what about creatures that inhabit a woodland, wetland, prairie, the sky above, or—counterintuitive as it may seem—a warming lake or river? Wild creatures, just like us, have a limited tolerance for heat, and must have a means to regulate it in order to survive. They can’t change their microclimate with the flip of a switch. So how do

they cope when an extreme heat event occurs?

Each creature has its own behaviors, one or more evolutionary adaptations that can help it survive a dramatic rise in temperature.

A common heat-shedding mechanism is one we see in “man’s best friend,” our domestic canine companions. That mechanism is panting, or rapid, shallow breathing. This behavior, in wolves, foxes, coyotes, raccoons, and other wild mammals, permits internal moisture to escape by evaporation through the tongue and respiratory tract. This reduces the animal’s core temperature, compensating for the fact that their ability to sweat is insufficient to get the job done.

Birds—from songbirds, to game birds like grouse and pheasants—face a dilemma similar in effect to fur-covered mammals. Only their limiting factor is feathers, which cover most birds almost entirely. As a result, they too are unable to lose heat by sweating. When heat-stressed, many birds do what ornithologists call “gular fluttering.” Gular refers to the bird’s gullet, or throat, and the fluttering they speak of is a rapid vibration of the moist membranes in the bird’s throat, which causes cooling by evaporation; a bird’s version of panting.

Also, by compressing their body feathers, birds can reduce the insulating, heat-retaining effect of their feathers. The same advice we give ourselves to be most active during the coolest early and late hours is also practiced by many birds, which concentrate their feeding during those periods. When heat is extreme, songbirds may

shelter in places that are shielded from direct sun; places like shrubbery, or in the protection of tree foliage. And, there is also the straightforward solution of bathing, either in natural depressions that hold water, or—here’s where we can help them—a backyard bird bath.

Some of our most common wild neighbors, squirrels and rabbits, may take advantage of the inherently cooler temperature of the earth itself, in places that are shaded from direct sun. They may stretch out their body and press their underside against that cooler surface to dissipate body heat. The practice has been given the name “splooting;” some call it “pancaking. You might even see this behavior in your dog or cat, stretched out full-length in shaded grass, or on a cool floor inside your home.

You might think that fish have it made, living in a watery world that is inherently cooler than the air above that may be pulsating with heat. But that’s not the whole story. One of the reasons angling tactics change from springtime to midsummer is that fish may change locations in their search for the optimum combination of temperature and oxygen concentration, the combination that their species is best adapted to.

Crappies that may predictably be found in shallower water in spring may move to depths ranging from 15 to 30 feet in summer, where water temperature is lower, and oxygen levels meet their needs. Still more sensitive to heat are trout, each variety having its own ideal temperature range. Water temperatures in the streams they inhabit may rise during the heat of sum-

mer due to a combination of things: higher air temperatures, and inflow of rain that runs into the stream over warmed ground. At such times trout will move to deep pools where the water is typically cooler, or to areas where underwater springs bring in still cooler groundwater.

Creatures that routinely spend much of their time underground have a head start in dealing with escalating summer temperatures. Among these are our University of Minnesota mascot, the gopher—technically, the thirteen-lined ground squirrel—woodchucks, moles, and badgers. These subterranean mammals further aid their heat-beating cause by being most active during the coolest hours of early morning or late evening, or even in the hours of darkness.

Amphibians, such as frogs and toads, lack the ability to regulate their core body temperature as mammals do. Instead, they take on the temperature of their environment; we used to call this “cold-blooded.” In order to avoid overheating when temperatures are highest, they instinctively seek out microclimate niches that are shaded, moist, and cool. Places like under leaf litter; or rotting logs, even under compost or mulch in our gardens. Or, maybe that muddy patch next to the house where the hose spigot leaks a little! They, too, will restrict their greatest activity to the coolest hours.

At times, these coping strategies can be the difference between life and death. They may become even more tested and valuable if average global temperatures continue their current rising trend.

Responsibilities for jet-ski drivers

By Bryan Welk
Cass County Sheriff

This summer, we have received a higher-than-normal number of complaints involving Jet Skis and Jet Ski operators, as well as many of our Boat and Water safety contacts have been with jet skis in the recent weeks.

Our countless lakes and waterways make personal watercraft—commonly known as Jet Skis or WaveRunners—a popular way to enjoy the outdoors. While these machines provide excitement and recreation, they also require responsible operation. Personal watercrafts are capable of high speeds and quick acceleration, making operator awareness and compliance with state laws essential for preventing injuries, protecting natural resources, and ensuring everyone can safely enjoy Minnesota’s waterways.

Know the Law

In Minnesota, personal watercraft (PWC) are legally classified as motorboats. As a result, operators must

follow all boating laws in addition to regulations specific to PWCs. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has established rules designed to reduce collisions, protect swimmers, and promote responsible boating.

Wear a Proper Life Jacket

Every person operating or riding on a personal watercraft must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD) that is suitable for personal watercraft use. Unlike occupants of many traditional boats, riders cannot simply have a life jacket on board—it must be worn at all times while the watercraft is underway.

Legal Hours

Minnesota law prohibits operating a personal watercraft between one hour before sunset and 9:30 a.m. Reduced visibility significantly increases the risk of collisions with other boaters, swimmers, docks, and floating hazards.

No-Wake Zones

Operators must travel at slow no-wake speed—5 mph

or less—when within 150 feet of:

- Shorelines
- Docks
- Swimmers
- Swimming rafts
- Anchored or non-motorized watercraft

These restrictions help reduce shoreline erosion, protect paddlers and anglers, and improve safety in congested areas.

Reckless Operation

Many boating accidents occur because of excessive speed or careless maneuvering. Safe operators should:

- Maintain a safe distance from other boats.
- Watch continuously for swimmers and paddle craft.
- Avoid weaving through boat traffic.
- Never jump wakes close to other vessels.
- Reduce speed in congested areas or rough water.
- Always keep a proper lookout in every direction.

Remember that personal watercraft steer using water thrust. Releasing the throttle completely reduces steering control, making emergency maneuvers more difficult.

Youth Operators

Minnesota has expanded its watercraft operator education requirements in recent years. Depending on the operator’s age and date of birth, a valid watercraft operator’s permit may now be required to legally operate a personal watercraft. These requirements are being phased in over several years to improve boating safety across the state. Operators should verify current eligibility requirements before heading out to the water.

Be Courteous to Others

Minnesota lakes are shared by anglers, kayak-

ers, swimmers, sailboats, paddleboarders, and families enjoying the shoreline. Responsible personal watercraft operators can help everyone enjoy the water by:

- Minimizing unnecessary wake near docks and shorelines.
 - Keeping noise to a reasonable level.
 - Giving anglers and non-motorized watercraft plenty of room.
 - Respecting environmentally sensitive areas.
 - Following all posted local restrictions. Courtesy is one of the simplest ways to prevent conflicts and improve safety on busy lakes.
 - Help Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species
 - Before leaving any lake or river:
 - Remove all aquatic plants from your watercraft and trailer.
 - Drain all water from the craft and equipment.
 - Dispose of unwanted bait properly.
 - Clean and dry your equipment before entering another body of water.
- These simple steps help prevent the spread of zebra mussels, Eurasian water-milfoil, and other invasive species that threaten Minnesota’s lakes.

Enjoy the Water Responsibly

Safe boating is everyone’s responsibility. Following Minnesota’s personal watercraft laws, maintaining situational awareness, wearing proper safety equipment, and respecting fellow lake users greatly reduces the risk of accidents and injuries.

Whether you’re an experienced rider or operating a Jet Ski for the first time, responsible operation helps ensure Minnesota’s lakes remain safe, enjoyable, and accessible for everyone for both those on and off the water.

Quote of the week

“I am beginning to learn that it is the sweet, simple things of life which are the real ones after all.”
— Laura Ingalls Wilder

Letter to the Editor

Saturday Rural Mail Delivery

Lots of print about the Staples World newspaper that we don’t get until Saturday - when we would get (it) on Wednesdays!

Lots and lots and lots of person work on job Monday to Friday - having weekends off to enjoy family and etc. The big question is why

do we get mail on Saturdays in rural America?

Persons working from home I believe would not miss getting mail on Saturdays.

Reading print in newspaper sounds like it is about money. So - if no mail in rural America on Saturday - just think of the income to better mail deliver(y).

David Wetzel
Browerville, Minn.

Staples World

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Letters: Readers are encouraged to express their views by writing letters to the editor. Letters are verified for authenticity, so please include a name, address and phone number. Only the author’s name and city will be published. Letters may be edited for spelling and grammar errors, libel, length and other factors. Private thanks, solicitations and libelous letters will not be published. Letters are printed on a space available basis. The editor reserves the right to reject letters.

The deadline is 12 noon, Friday. Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

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Fairness: The Staples World tries conscientiously to report fairly and accurately. If you feel we fall short of this objective at any time, please direct your complaint to the manager whose name appears on this page.

Note to Advertisers: Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. This newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for the typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day’s insertion. Adjustment for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. The publisher reserves the right to cancel any advertisement at any time.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, MCAN Advertising

Quote of the week

“Speak when you are angry
and you will make the best
speech you will ever regret.”
— Ambrose Bierce



Amanda Mithun is newest behavioral health provider at Lakewood Health system

Lakewood Health System, Staples, welcomes Amanda Mithun, licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) to its behavioral health provider team.

Originally from Staples, Mithun completed both her undergraduate and Master of Science in Community Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy degrees at St. Cloud State University. Since joining Lakewood in 2012, Mithun has worked as an outpatient therapist in the Reflections behavioral health unit, and most recently as the coordinator for Lakewood's behavioral health home program, based out of the clinic.

As a licensed marriage and family therapist, Mithun enjoys working with individuals across their lifespan and brings experience supporting both geriatric and college-age populations. She will see patients ages 16 and older and



Amanda Mithun, LMFT

uses a holistic, multidisciplinary approach to mental health care, recognizing the connection between emotional, physical and social well-being. Mithun is especially committed to serving individuals from marginalized communities, meaning she strives to create a welcoming, respectful, and culturally responsive environment for those who may face barriers to care or

have historically felt underserved. Her goal is to ensure every patient feels heard, valued, and supported in their mental health journey.

"Having worked at Lakewood for several years in various capacities, I'm excited to begin my practice here and focus my time on supporting patients. Access to mental health is challenging, especially in rural areas, so being able to give back and be a resource for others in our area is important to me."

In her free time, Mithun enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, singing in the local chorus, performing in musicals and plays, and traveling as much as possible.

Those interested in scheduling an appointment with Mithun will need a referral from their Lakewood Health System primary care provider. For more information, call 218-894-8852.

Wanted: Choir alumni and others for 'A Community and Reunion Christmas Concert' 'For All the Saints'

By Dawn Timbs, Staples World reporter

Christmas in July? It's not quite time to celebrate the December holiday, but it IS time to start planning for the, 'For All the Saints - A Community and Reunion Christmas Concert,' which is just four months away.

Back by popular demand, the reunion concert will be held Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Staples-Motley (SM) Legacy Gymnasium in Staples. It's being sponsored by the Staples Area Men's and Women's Choruses.

The program will include the procession-al, "For All the Saints" and the moving finale, Handels' "Hallelujah! Chorus." It's a tradition that was started decades ago by longtime SM choir director Stan Carlson, and one that continues today with the Cardinal Choir's current director, Cade Bestland.

Bill Spar, president of the Staples Area Men's Chorus (SAMC) said that this concert creates a unique opportunity for alumni parents, children and grandchildren to sing these Christmas classics together. "What screams 'Christmas' more than family?" Spar asked.

Do you have to be a Staples-Motley choir member or alumnus to participate?

No. Alumni of any of the area school districts are invited to be part of this multi-community, multi-generational event. Anyone who loves to sing is welcome to participate in and experience this special Christmas tra-

dition. In addition to the two pieces mentioned earlier, the concert will feature other favorite songs of the season.

The Community and Reunion Christmas Concert was first held in 2022. "It was such a success," Spar said, adding that there were approximately 82 alumni that participated. The committee is hoping that there will be even more voices at the 2026 "For All the Saints" concert in Staples.

Several directors are slated to be a part of the concert event, including Caleb Horn, the new director of the SAMC; Paul Pappenfus, associate director of the SAMC; and SAWC directors Paul Freelove and Brianna (Granby) Robertson. Steve Hoemberg, former director of both the SMHS Choir and SAMC, has agreed to direct the traditional pieces, "For All the Saints" and "Hallelujah!"

Chairs for the event include Bill Spar, Mike and Cindy Gold, and Megan Trout. They are hoping to send music out to all interested singers by early fall, as well as event details, including rehearsal times.

If you are an alumnus, or community member that wants to be a part of this concert tradition, simply scan the QR code provided in the accompanying ad and fill out the questionnaire. "This will give us your music history details and your email so we can connect with you regarding the specifics as we start planning," event chairs said.

For more information, email Spar at bills@wcta.net or reach out to a member of the men's or women's choruses.



'Tis the season, apparently, at Dower Lake

Campers at Dower Lake Camp-ground in Staples have been observing Christmas in July, perhaps in an attempt to ignore the hot temperatures in recent weeks. A number of inflatable figures, in-

cluding Santa Claus and a giant gingerbread man, are on display for a few more days before they head to cooler weather at the North Pole. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Menu

Senior Nutrition Program, Staples
Staples: Call mornings (218-979-4118) the Thursday before to reserve next week's meal(s) and current suggested donation info. LSS Meals - traditional older adult menu (subject to change).
LOCATED AT: Staples Hi-Rise, 615 4th St. NE, Staples. Seniors welcome to dine-in at 11:00 a.m., with meal reservations.

- **Staples Site: 218-979-4118.**
- **Motley Site: 218-824-3820.**
- August 3 - August 7**
- MONDAY** - BBQ chicken breast, scalloped potatoes, peas, wheat bread, marg., brownie, 1% milk.
- TUESDAY** - Diced turkey/gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, whole kernel corn, diced peach cup, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.
- WEDNESDAY** - Baked potato, broccoli, applesauce cup, wheat bread, marg., sour cream, 1% milk.
- THURSDAY** - Turkey Tetrazzini, sliced carrots, peach crisp, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.
- FRIDAY** - Pototo crunch fish fillet, mashed sweet potatoes, mixed veggies, wheat dinner roll, marg., tartar sauce, snickerdoodle cookie, 1% milk.

Mark Your Calendar

July 30
'WALK WITH A Doc' Thursdays at 5:15 p.m., at Lakewood Health System's main campus in Staples. Meet at the main entrance. For more information about this free program, visit <https://walkwithadoc.org/join-a-walk/locations/staples-minnesota>

July 31
WOMEN'S OPEN AA RECOVERY MEETING Fridays in person, 10:30 a.m., Motley Free Methodist Church (lower level), 33 Wellwood St. E. Motley. All women welcome.

August 2
MUSIC IN THE PARK - FREE Featuring Eric Neznik and Jason Franzen. Sunday, Aug. 2, 7 p.m., at Northern Pacific Park, 625 6th St. NE, Staples. Sponsored by Staples Motley Area Arts Council.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS Sundays, 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

August 4
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - FREE COMMUNITY EVENT will be held Tuesday, Aug. 4, 5 - 7 p.m., at the Staples Airport. Free light meal provided. All are welcome. Connect with your neighbors and join millions across the country in partnering with law enforcement to strengthen police-community relationships and lasting community connections. Hosted by Staples-Motley Beyond Poverty.

OLD TIME DANCE is held the first Tuesday of every month at the Wadena VFW. For information, call 218-639-0132.

EXPERIENCE STRENGTH AND HOPE AA GROUP MTGS IN STAPLES Tuesdays, 7 - 8 p.m., at Church of Christ, 27343 490th St., Staples. For info., call Dan at 218-640-7228.

THE STAPLES AREA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CHORUSES present:

For All The Saints - A Reunion and Community Christmas Concert

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR 2026 REUNION CHRISTMAS CONCERT, on SATURDAY DECEMBER 5th, 2026 at the STAPLES MOTLEY LEGACY GYMNASIUM

If you are an alumnus of any of the school districts in our area, we invite you to become a part of this multi-community, multi-generational event! Simply scan the QR code and complete the questionnaire as directed. This will give us your music history details and your email so we can connect with you regarding the specifics as we start planning our next

Reunion Christmas Concert
Thank you and we look forward to working together for a GREAT Concert!

AUCTION

Located from Motley, Hwy. #210 to Hwy. #64, north approx. 5 mi., east on Hwy. #34 approx. 6-1/2 mi. east, 1 mi. north to 11002 45th Ave. SW, Pillager 56473 -OR- from Pillager, north on Hwy 1 to Hwy. 34, west approx. 3 mi. to 11002 45th Ave. SW, long driveway. Follow signs on:

Saturday, August 8, 2026

SALE TIME: 10:00 A.M. RESTROOMS AVAILABLE LUNCH ON GROUNDS

 2003 Pontiac Vibe, AWD, auto., 259,000 mi.	 2003 Pontiac Vibe, front wheel drive	 184 IH gas tractor, Betty mower, fits 184 IH	 30' 5th wheel dbl. duals, flatbed trailer
 1989-90 fixer upper, truck, Top Kick, fuel inj.	 8' x 6', 5' x 3" trailer	 AMF Crestliner, 16', w/Shore-Lander trailer, 35 hp Evinrude motor, Minn Kota trolling motor	 Fish House, Ice Castle, 14'
 Antique upright "Victoria", crank start, records	 Chrysler 2015 Town & Country mini van, auto, front wheel drive, approx. 150,000 mi.	 GUNS Sig. Shot Tradition 410 ga, 3" RIA, Derya Arms, Turkey, new in box CBA 50 cal. muzzle loader, w/scope Savage Mach II 2250 single shot 20 ga. New England Arms 12" pump, 3" single shot 223, w/scope Magnum Marlin Model 917V 17 HMR bolt action w/scope Savage Access 21-250 bolt action Wetherby Van Guard 7 mm Remington mag. Antique XL single shot shotgun, 46568, ga? New England Arms single shot Pardoll S&B 3", 20 ga. Springfield Model 15 22 single shot bolt 410 Harrington Richards HR 3" HAR 20 ga. single shot Topper Model 68, 3" 12 ga. single shot 3" Topper Model 88	
 6 ft. snowblade for skid steer Brush mower, 12-1/2 hp, 45" 2 power washers, Brute and North Star Weed wacker on wheels, Intex Earthquake tiller 22 ton, Speedco Wilson mig welder 20 ton press, Central Floor model drill press Older DeWalt tools U.S. General 5 ft. tool box X 44" ECHO chainsaw, ECHO chainsaw 10 hp Coleman generator 6250 PowerMate	Misc. sires Metal ban saw Scrap iron Bauer 20 v ratchet, metal sheet Tool boxes, some older Scrap iron Welding rods	Hitches Long handle tools Pipe wrenches 25" wedge	

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Staples World newspaper thanks you for your continued support



Open House Birthday Celebration for Germann's
Sat., August 8
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Holst Acres,
28943 Todd Line Rd.,
Staples, Mn.



Auditorium donation

The Centennial Auditorium project received a \$6,000 donation from the Staples Host Lions Club, with the donation going through the Staples Motley Area Arts Council. Tim Rice accepts the check from Bob Schafer of the Lions Club.

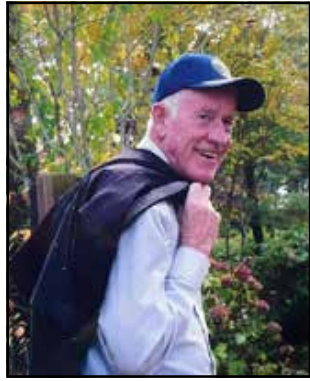
Reunion for SHS Classes of 1954-57 is Aug. 22

The Staples High School classes of 1954-1957 will have an 'open house reunion' Saturday, Aug. 22, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at BRICKS Restaurant in Motley.

For more information, contact Gerald Germann at 763-244-4686.

Obituary

Edward Jordahl



welcomed everyone with a warm smile and a sense of hospitality. In retirement, Ed enjoyed driving school bus and working part-time at Pine Ridge Golf Club. He was also a proud, longtime member of the local Lions Club and active member of St. John's Lutheran Church, dedicating his time to serving others.

Beyond his professional life, Ed found joy in the simple pleasures of life. He loved golfing, meticulously mowing his yard and helping neighbors by snowplowing in the winter. Above all, his greatest joy was spending quality time with his family and close friends. He leaves behind a legacy of love for his children and grandchildren and will be remembered for his selflessness and generosity.

His legacy of hard work, kindness and devotion will live on through his family.

He is survived by his loving wife, Marsha Jordahl; one daughter, Julie (Robert) Schmitt; one son, Shawn (Stephanie Hoefs) Jordahl; four cherished grandchildren, Nathan Schmitt, Jason Schmitt, Jaelyn Jordahl, and Jayde Jordahl; three sisters, Carole (Don) Oliver, Janet (Lee) Greig and Judy (Lee) Jenkins; one brother, Sherwood (Flo) Jordahl; as well as many beloved nieces, nephews and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Irving and Frances Christensen and two brothers-in-law, Don Oliver and Lee Greig.

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Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples218-894-2891
Pastor John Pavlica, Lead Pastor
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 11:00 a.m.
Weds., AWANA 6:00 p.m.

Assembly of God

914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples 218-894-1081
Pastor Roy Miles
Small Groups (Bible classes for all ages) 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Children's Church (Kids start in main worship service) 11 a.m.
Prayer Meeting 5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Sonlight (kids ages 4 yrs.-6th grade) After school to 5:30 p.m.
Youth Group (Teens, 7th-12th grade) After school to 5:30 p.m.

Church of Christ

27343 490th St., Staples218-894-2609
Pastor Barry Klein
Facebook Live
Bible School (youth and adult) 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY:
Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Faith Lutheran

430 12th Street. NE., Staples.....218-894-1546

Sunday Worship Service9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and
Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church218-631-1593
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday.....8:30 a.m.

Seventh Day Adventist

421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples
Pastor Joshua Jerecek
218-894-0033
Saturday Worship 9:30 am.
Sabbath School 10:45 a.m.

Thomastown Covenant

15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH 6:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran

1000 4th St. NE, Staples218-894-2372
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday Divine Service 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Class...10:30 a.m.

United Methodist

310 5th St. NE, Staples218-894-2248
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
(Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)

Aldrich

Balsamlund Lutheran
19550 490th Street, Aldrich
Janet Eckman SMA218-837-5831
jre227@yahoo.com
Sunday Worship.....8:30 a.m.

Cushing

Bethany Lutheran
25430 Bison Rd.Cushing, MN
320-749-2140
Pastor Carl Larson
www.bethanylutherancushing.org
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Communion 1st and 2nd Sunday of each month

Lincoln Evangelical Free

1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443
Phone: 218- 575-2449
www.lincolnefree.org
Facebook Lincoln E Free
Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.
YouTube Channel 10:00 a.m.

Cushing Baptist

26298 Bear Rd., Cushing
Pastor Dan Holmes.....320-749-2583
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible study 7:30 p.m.

Leader

Swan Valley Lutheran
Leader218-397-2470
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
January - July 11 a.m.

Maple Hill Lutheran

Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
Leader218-397-2470 (Rural Pine River)
Worship and Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Motley

Motley Free Methodist
33 Wellwood St. E
Motley 56466218-352-6888
Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor
Casey Reynolds, Assistant Pastor
Sunday Worship..... 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
facebook live 9 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Youth Group 6:00-8:00 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran

497 3rd Ave. S, Motley.....218-352-6399
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday School and Bible Class 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

St. Michael Catholic Church

280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday 10:30 a.m.

United Methodist

847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley.....218-352-6466
Pastor Greg Leslie
www.motleyumc.net
Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 a.m.
Monday AA meeting.....8:00 p.m.

Oylen

Oylen Alliance
City. Rds. 7 and 9, Oylen
218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday School10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Pillager

First Lutheran Church
Pastor Mathew Sundquist
717 River Street S, Pillager, MN
218-746-3775
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School, 2nd and 4th Sundays 8:30 a.m.

Casino Assembly of God

Pastor Dan Johnson
N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104.
Phone218-746-3839
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m.

First Baptist

903 River Street South, Pillager
Pastor Jake Anderson
218-746-3768
curious@fbcpillager.com
Worship Gathering 10:00 a.m.
Connection Point..... 9:30 a.m.

Hewitt

Church of the Nazarene
114 Front Street, P.O. Box 146 Hewitt, MN
218-924-2028
Jim and Linda McGaffey, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
WEDNESDAY PRAYER 7:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)

524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Hewitt Community Church

Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Kenneth Uhren
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Verndale

Verndale Alliance
109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481
218-445-5619
Senior Pastor Tony Stanley
Youth Pastor Joe Ward
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Fellowship Classes 11-11:45 a.m..

Family Life Church

402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568
office@verndaleflc.org
Pastor Amos Self 218-371-7189
Tahna Rurup, Connections & Media Pastor
Tillman Phagan, Kid's & Food Shelf Pastor
Ryan Wolfenden, Youth Pastor
SUNDAY
Youth Prayer.....9:20 a.m.
Worship Service10:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting 5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Life Groups 6:30 p.m.

Hope Chapel Alliance

18126 County Road 7, Verndale
218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday Worship9:00 a.m.
Sunday School10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Family Night 5:30 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS)

17097 460th St., PO Box 37, Verndale
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Verndale United Methodist

10 3rd Ave. SW, Verndale
218-445-5108
Pastor Jill Pawlowski
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.

Central Community Church

5 miles N on Cty Rd 26 (Nimrod tar)
Pastor James Middendorff, 320-260-4952
Sunday Service 9:00 a.m.
Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

St. Frederick Catholic Church

20 Mason Avenue NW
Verndale218-631-1593
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
MASS: Saturday 6:00 p.m.

St. Hubert Catholic Church

Bluegrass218-631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Mass: Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Leaf River Township The Old Country Church

Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6
Info. 218-837-5690 Call first.

Wadena

St. Helen's Episcopal Church
22 Dayton Ave. SW, Wadena, MN
218-631-3928
Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m.

St. Ann's Catholic Church

514 1st Street SE, Wadena(218) 631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Mass: Sunday (livestream).....10 a.m.

"A Seven Word - Three Sentence Prayer"

By Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

How is your prayer life with God? As will all of life, we can go deeper than where we presently are at. So, we're on this journey of growth together. Prayer is no exception.

I often cringe as how often we try to "hurry up" prayer or even "marginalize" it.

It's my own story, too. I grieve when we get in the mods of doing "quickly" prayers to just get on to "more important" matters of life. We ask for "little" or "small" prayers. It's like we have a hunch that prayer needs to fit in somewhere, but we struggle with finding its priority in life. Neither are attention-getting (long?) prayers pleasing to God as we will see shortly in Matthew 6.

Prayer was sure a priority with Jesus. After a long previous day, we read in Mark 1:35, "very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." If the perfect, complete Son of God, the Second Person of the Triune God, had deep reason to talk with His Heavenly Father, how much more is my need to be in communication with Him.

Jesus warns us in Matthew 6:5-6, "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Our motive in prayer is huge.

Here is a prayer that I share with God regularly... seven words making up three sentences.

- Praise You!
- Thank You!
- Please change me.

God is worthy of our unhurried adoration and gratitude to Him. In the midst of that, I'm only all too aware of how much needs to be changed in me. A prayer of three breaths. May we be moldable clay in His life giving - Potter's-shaping hands. He want to hear from you.

REACH donation from Lions

REACH, the organization that held the Day of Caring volunteer event at Staples-Motley High/Middle School, received a \$500 donation from the Staples Host Lions. REACH teacher Val Turner accepts the check from Bob Schafer of the Staples Host Lions.

Student Achievements

ST. CLOUD TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE has announced its Spring 2026 Academic Honors List. To qualify, for the President's List, students must earn a grade point average of 4.0; and to qualify for the Dean's List, a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.99. Local students named include:

- Rachel Kossan, Motley, President's List
- Brooke Beto, Staples, Dean's List

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA, GRAND FORKS has announced its Spring 2026 President's Roll of Honor.

To qualify a student must have an overall cumulative grade point average of 3.80 or higher. The student must also have earned a minimum of 30 semester hours and have completed a minimum of 12 hours at the close of the semester, eight of which must be for traditional letter grades. Local student named includes:

- Addisyn Cichos, Staples
- SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY** has announced its Spring 2026 Dean's List. To qualify, for Honors, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher; and for High Honors, a grade point average of 4.0. Local students named include:
 - Millicent Leone, Staples
- NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY** has announced its Spring 2026 Dean's List. Local students named include:
 - Odin Trif, Motley
 - Laken Hines, Staples
 - Israel Ervasti, Staples
 - Talene Whiddon, Pillager
- Eva Mudgett, Pillager
- Ellie Brown, Pillager

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Job Application and Description:
appletonmn.gov/employment

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Trap shooting summer league

Summer trap shooting has started on Wednesday evenings at the Staples Sportsman's Club shooting range. Pictured, coach Stephen Benson helps shooters

with their technique. From left, Patrick Eckert, Bennet Sonenstahl and Brennen Sonenstahl (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Alex Leach



Brennen Sonenstahl



Scorekeeper Bob Koenig



Bennet Sonenstahl



Patrick Eckert



Special Olympics bocce ball tournament

Team members from the Sunby's Superheroes participated in the West Region Bocce ball Tournament, recently held at the Northstar Sports Complex in Alexandria. Over 250 athletes from the West Region participated in the event.

"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt," Special Olympics founder, Eunice Kennedy Shriver said.

"The phrase serves not only as a motto but also as an official athlete oath, emphasizing personal effort, courage and

sportsmanship," said Megan Lindgren. "What a great day and so much fun meeting new friends and playing bocce ball together."

The team is always looking for additional athletes and volunteers. If interested contact, Bonnie Rickter or Kerry Lindgren, 218-894-1620. The West Region Bocce Ball competition would not happen without volunteers. "We challenge you to consider volunteering at a Minnesota Special Olympics event in the future," said Rickter. (Submitted photos)



Gaven Christensen and Maggie Sundby receive their First place ribbons in their doubles competition.



Maggie Sundby and a new friend from Moorhead who participated in individual competition. Maggie received the first place ribbon.



Megan Lindgren shakes hands with her competitor after winning her individual competition.



Gaven Christensen graciously volunteered to help with scoring after completing his competition.



Sundby's Superhero Team members and coaches, left to right: Gaven Christensen, Megan Lindgren, Kerry Lindgren, Maggie Sundby and Bonnie Rickter.

Lions donate to Bike Rodeo

The Staples Host Lions donated \$500 to the City of Staples Bike Rodeo, held in May. Parks and Recreation Director Lacey Aguirre accepts the check from Bob Schafer of the Lions Club.





Staples-Motley School Board Minutes

MEETING #19
ISD #2170
SCHOOL BOARD
June 22, 2026
6:00 p.m.
District Office

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wright at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call was taken, members Wright, Frisk, Freeman, Trout, Reeck and Reese were present, comprising a quorum. Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Director of Finance Hill, Principal Ferdon, Principal Koenigs, Staples World Editor Anderson, staff members, Ehlers advisor Zesbaugh and a community member. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Frisk, to approve the addition of items 4s, 4t and 6e. MC

Motion by Trout, seconded by Frisk, to adopt the agenda. MC

Chair Wright recognized the public in attendance.

School/Community Forum

- None

Consent Agenda

Approve minutes from the May 18, 2026 Board Meeting

Approve lane change requests with recommendation from the Professional Growth Committee:

Kasey Odden, MA30 to MA45

Caitlyn Hacker, MA to MA15

Approve the credit reimbursement for Selket Jewett, MS/HS Teacher

Approve the hire of:

Dan Bjerga, Head Wrestling Coach

John Jacobson, Dean of Students

Kristi Odden, .2 FTE EL Teacher

Amelia Travis, 4th Grade Teacher

Sonja Habedank, 5th/6th Grade Science Teacher

Elizabeth Machelle Hottinger Gatts, Elementary Level 3 EBD Teacher

Janelle Thompson, Van Driver

Amanda Keplin, .5 FTE MS/HS Special Ed Teacher

Avaya Brandt, Adventures Assistant

Approve the 2026-2028 Individual Employment Agreements for:

Julie Polak, HR/Payroll Clerk

LeRoy Peterson, Director Buildings & Grounds

Wade Vangness, Food Service Director

Norbert Klimek, Transportation Director

Joe Brandsma, Technology Director

Ellen Hill, Director of Finance

Approve the termination of Troy Erickson effective 4/13/2026

Accept the resignation of Tony Marthaler, Transportation 5/22/2026

Approve the 2026-2027 MSBA dues and policy service renewal (\$5,525)

Approve the Q-Comp Career Ladder positions for 2026-2027

Approve FTE increase of Liz Wright, SLP, to .83

Approve the 2026-2027 CIS/Concurrent Enroll-

ment Agreement with CLC

Approve the FY27 ECFE-SR FED Consulting Services Agreement Renewal

Approve the 2026-2027 Ampact Partner agreement

Approve the Arux Agreement (New Community Ed software replacing R-Schools)

Approve the 2026-2027 CTC Master agreement

Approve the 2026-2027 MREA membership renewal (\$2,009)

Approve the 2026-2027 Consultant Agreement with Staci Headley

Approve the 2026-2027 Nursing & Allied Health & SLP Internship/Clinical Affiliation MOA

Approve the hire of Josh Wood, Activities Director/Community Education Coordinator

Approve the hire of Grace Allen, Middle School ADSIS Interventionist

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Reeck, to approve the consent agenda. MC

Donations and In-Kind Contributions

Motion by Trout, seconded by Frisk, to approve the Resolution to accept Grants and Donations in the amount of \$25,125.98. MC

Thank you to Staples-Motley Community Foundation, Dianna Smith, Joyce Mohler, Staples Lion Club, Staples Ace Hardware, Miscellaneous donors, Lake-

wood Health System, Nicole Bjerga/Edina Realty, Staples-Motley Football Boosters, Staples-Motley Golf Boosters, Special Olympics MN, Resource Training & Solutions, DT Midstream, Imagemark Business Services and Staples-Motley Area Arts Council for their generous donations.

Finance Items

Financial Report by Director of Finance, Ellie Hill

2026-2027 Proposed original revenue and expenditure Budget Report

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Trout, to approve the May disbursements. MC

General Fund: \$896,614.24

Food Service: \$1,706,859.73

Community Service: \$15,751.84

Construction Fund: \$0.00

Debt Service: \$0.00

Fund 21 Student Activities: \$14,574.78

Fund 45: \$0.00

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Wright, to approve the May receipts. MC

General Fund: \$1,706,859.73

Food Service: \$92,816.25

Community Service: \$49,046.70

Construction Fund: \$0.00

Debt Service: \$668,639.26

Fund 21 Student Activities: \$12,276.17

Fund 45: \$0.00

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Frisk, to approve the Proposed Original 2026-2027 revenue and expenditure budget. MC

Ehlers Report - Sale Day Report for School Building Bonds

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Reeck, to approve the resolution awarding the sale of general obligation school building bonds, series 2026A, in the original aggregate principal amount of \$14,385,000;

fixing their form and specifications; directing their execution and delivery; and providing for their payment. ROLL CALL VOTE- In Favor: Reeck, Reese, Freeman, Frisk, Wright, Trout; Opposed: None MC

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Wright, to award the Dairy Bid to Cass Clay Creamery, at fixed pricing, for the 2026-2027 school year. MC

Cabinet Presentation

-by Teaching & Learning Coordinator Pantke

Presentation of the 2025-2026 Q Comp Annual Report

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Trout, to approve the 2025-2026 Local Literacy Plan. MC

Policy

(Policy Committee Meeting Minutes 6-10-2026)

Motion by Reese, seconded by Reeck, to approve the review of ISD #2170 policies 425.1 - Staff Evaluation and 902.1 Weight Room Policy. MC

Motion by Reese, seconded by Frisk, to approve the review of MSBA policies with minimal or no changes. MC

410 - Family and Medical Leave Policy (minimal changes)

424 - License Status (no changes)

427 - Workload limits for certain special education teachers (minimal changes)

503 - Attendance Policy (minimal changes)

506 - Student Discipline (no changes)

506F - Notice of Suspension Forms (minimal changes)

722 - Public Data Request (no changes)

722F - Public Data Request Form (minimal changes)

730 - Bidding and Quoting Guidelines (minimal changes)

806 - Crisis Management (minimal changes)

Personnel

Motion by Trout, seconded by Freeman, to accept the retirement of Charles Holst, Bus Driver, effective 6/30/2026. MC

Thank you Chuck for your 40+ years of service to the Staples-Motley School District.

Other

AIEA Annual Compliance Presentation by Principal Koenigs

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Reeck, to approve the Annual Compliance Overview of the American Indian Advisory Committee Vote of Concurrence. MC

Motion by Trout, seconded by Frisk, to approve the resolution authorizing participation with the Community Concern for Youth Program with Todd-Wadena Community Correction. MC

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Wright, to approve the Education Identity & Access Management Resolution identifying the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) for Staples-Motley as Shane Tappe, with Trisha Larson as the IOwA Proxy for school year 2026-27. MC

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Wright, to approve the AIA B132 Owner/Architect Agreement and AIA C132 Owner Construction Manager Agreement. MC

2026-2027 Activities Handbook available for

Board review. (No action at this time)

2026-2027 Coaches Handbook available for Board review. (No action at this time)

Reports

School Board:

Freshwater - 4/9/2026

Special Meeting Minutes

Sourcewell - 4/16/2026

Minutes

Elementary Principal report by Principal Koenigs

Middle/High School Principal - report by Principal Ferdon

Activities Director/Community Ed Coordinator-report by AD/CEC Ahrendt

SMEA - No report

Superintendent - report by Superintendent Tappe

Other

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Trout, to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. MC

Trisha Larson, Clerk

ISD #2170

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Upcoming Meetings/Events:

*All school offices are closed every Friday through August 14, 2026

Mon., August 3, 2026 - School Board Meeting/Work Session, District Office, 6 p.m., 905 4th St. NE, Staples

Mon., August 24, 2026 - School Board Meeting, District Office, 6 p.m., 905 4th St. NE, Staples

Weds., Sept. 1, 2026 - All Staff In-Service

Tues., Sept. 8, 2026 - First Day of School



Getting the lockers ready

Kayla Vejtasas, attendance secretary at Staples-Motley Middle/High School, has kept busy this summer preparing all of the lockers for the start of school this fall. Middle/High School Principal Debbie Ferdon noted Vejtasas's hard work during her report at the school board meeting July 21. Vejtasas said that she'd worked on at least 700 lockers, making sure combinations worked and made repairs where needed. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Todd County court

JULY 15, 2026

The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County July 7, 2026.

Juan Sevastian Ambriz Hernandez, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$150. \$75. Sentenced.

Kellen Ruiz Gomez, Long Prairie. Disorderly Conduct. Continued.

Local Confinement (3 days, Stay 0 Yr 0, Mo 0 Days credit for time served. Supervised probation 1 year).

Domestic Assault, Dismissed. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.

Hattie Ruth Herdina, Edina. Speed 80/70. Sentenced. Fine \$40. Fee \$75

David Dean Morisch, Long Prairie. 5th degree-possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual-not cannabis/hemp. Sentenced. MN

Correctional Facility -St. Cloud, 12 mo., Stay for 5 yr). Supervised probation, 5 yr. Community work service 40 hrs for indeterminate. Fine \$100.

Fee \$85. DWI 4 Operate motor vehicle, any amount schedule I/II drugs/metabolite; Not cannabis/hemp. Sentenced. Supervised probation 2 yr. Fine \$400 Fee \$40. Driver must carry proof insurance. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before William J. Cashman, Seventh District Court in Todd County July 7, 2026

Micheal Theodore Brown, Little Falls. Damage to property - 3rd Degree. Sentenced. Supervised Probation, 2 yrs. Local Confinement (364 days, Stay 0, Year 0, Mo. 0 364 days for 2 yr) Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

-Court reports forwarded from the Long Prairie Leader.

Cass County Notice of State Primary Election



A state primary election will be held on August 11, 2026, to nominate candidates for the following offices which are to be voted on at the general election to be held November 3, 2026. The State Partisan Primary Election Ballot will include the offices of U.S. Senator and U.S. Representative Congressional District 8, State Senator District 5, Governor & Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, Attorney General.

The State and County Nonpartisan Primary ballot will include a Cass County Commissioner race for District 3 and District 4 only.

Polling place locations and hours of voting:

Must vote at their polling place on election day (absentee voting closed):					
PRECINCT	POLLING PLACE	HOURS	PRECINCT	POLLING PLACE	HOURS
Townships			Townships cont.		
Bungo	Town Hall	10 a.m.- 8 p.m.	Trelpe	Town Hall	10 a.m.- 8 p.m.
Crooked Lake	Town Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.	Turtle Lake	Town Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Fairview	Town Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.	Wabedo	Town Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Hiram	Town Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.	Wilkinson	Town Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Kego	Longville Fire Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.	Woodrow	Town Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Leech Lake	Town Hall	10 a.m.- 8 p.m.			
Maple	Town Hall	7 a.m. - 8 p.m.	Cities		
May	Town Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.	Cass Lake	City Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.
McKinley	Town Hall	10 a.m.- 8 p.m.	East Gull Lake	City Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Pike Bay	Town Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.	Hackensack	Hackensack Community Bldg.	7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Pine River	Town Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.	Lake Shore	City Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Pontio Lake	Town Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.	Pillager	City Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Powers	Town Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.	Pine River	City Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Shingobee	Town Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.	Remer	City Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sylvan	Town Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.	Walker	Walker Fire Hall	7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Precincts that can vote at the Courthouse on Election Day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

MAIL BALLOT PRECINCTS			
Ansel Township	Bull Moose Township	Loon Lake Township	Slater Township
Backus	Byron Township	Meadow Brook Township	Smoky Hollow Township
Barclay Township	Chickamaw Beach	Moose Lake Township	Sucker Lakes Unorg.
Becker Township	Deerfield Township	Motley-part in Cass County only	Thunder Lake Township
Bena	Federal Dam	Ottertail Peninsula Township	Torrey Township
Beulah Township	Gould Township	Pine Lake Township	Wahnena Unorg.
Birch Lake Township	Hardwood South Unorg.	Poplar Township	Walden Township
Blind Lake Township	Homebrook Township	Remer Township	Willow River Unorg.
Boy Lake Township	Inguadona Township	Rogers Point Unorg.	Wilson Township
Boy River	Lima Unorg.	Rogers Township	Winnie Portage Unorg.
Boy River Township	Longville	Salem Township	

At which places all qualified electors residing in their respective townships or cities may cast their ballots.

Mail ballot precincts: All pre-registered voters in mail ballot precincts will receive ballots by mail. For voters not pre-registered that reside in a mail ballot precinct, call 218-547-7260 or visit the Cass County website at www.casscountymn.gov for more information on registering to vote, voting by absentee ballot prior to election day, or in-person on election day at the Cass County Auditor-Treasurer's Office, 303 Minnesota Ave W, Walker, MN and other designated locations.

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NOTICE
BECKER TOWNSHIP
AUGUST MEETING

Due to primary election rules Becker Township will hold their August 11, 2026, meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Mary Fitcher, Clerk
Becker Township

32-33pnc

NOTICE
VILLARD MEETING
FOR AUGUST

Villard Township will hold its regular monthly meeting for August on August 13, 2026, because of the Primary Elections set for August 11. The meeting time will remain the same starting at 7 p.m.

Mary Trantina Koenig,
Clerk
Villard Township

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PUBLIC NOTICES:
Your Right to Know

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CITY OF STAPLES

Annual Disclosure of Tax Increment Districts
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

DISTRICT INFORMATION	TIF 6 PRAIRIE VIEW	TIF 7 STAPLES TOWNHOMES	TIF 8 HOTEL	TIF 9 CARDINAL PINES	TIF 10 MEDICAL OFFICES	TIF 11 MILL TOWNHOMES
Current net tax capacity	\$15,019	\$52,394	\$115,764	\$82,726	\$10,785	\$18,573
Original net tax capacity	\$25	\$730	\$10,788	\$370	\$817	\$1,685
Captured net tax capacity	\$14,994	\$51,664	\$104,976	\$82,356	\$9,968	\$16,888
Principal and interest payments in 2026	\$3,441	\$14,290	\$102,949	\$112,692	\$17,095	\$17,219
Tax Increment received in 2025	\$18,641	\$59,834	\$120,419	\$102,388	\$11,433	\$19,372
Tax increment expended in 2025	\$18,641	\$57,156	\$114,196	\$101,752	\$10,686	\$17,863
Month and Year of first tax increment receipt	Jun-2006	May-2018	May-2018	May-2020	May-2020	Jun-2022
Date of required decertification	12/31/2031	12/31/2043	12/31/2026	12/31/2045	12/31/2028	12/31/2047

Notice to Voters

August 11, 2026

Statewide Primary Election

Review the information below to learn about upcoming elections.



Access Your Sample Ballot	Find Your Polling Place	Additional Election Information
Your official ballot will have the names of all candidates for your precinct. To see a list of the names of candidates and questions that will be on the ballot for your precinct visit: mnvotes.gov/myballot You may also be able to view your sample ballot online by scanning:  You may request to have a free copy of your sample ballot mailed to you.	Election Day is Tuesday, August 11. You can find your Election Day Polling Place by visiting: mnvotes.gov/pollfinder Voting Before Election Day You can vote early with an absentee ballot starting Friday, June 26. You can vote early by mail, in person, or from the military or abroad. Learn more by scanning: 	Most Election Day Polling Places are open 7am to 8pm. You may live in a precinct where a ballot is mailed to you as a mail ballot voter. If voting by mail, return your ballot no later than 8pm on Election Day. Election results will be available starting after 8pm on Election Day at: https://www.toddcountymn.gov Check to see if you are pre-registered to vote by scanning: 

Contact Your Local Election Official

Your county election official:

- Can mail you a sample ballot for free
- Keeps your voter registration record
- Handles other parts of the voting process

Election official:

General phone:

Website:

Email:

Absentee Voting and Mailing Address:

Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

320-732-4469

<https://www.toddcountymn.gov/elections@toddcountymn.gov>

215 1st Avenue S, Suite 201

Long Prairie, MN 56347



Thursday summer tradition

The Farmer's Market at Lakewood Health System in Staples is a popular destination on Thursdays during the summer months. Shoppers enjoyed shopping July 23, as a variety of vegetables were available, as well

as baked and canned goods, honey, meats, crafts and flowers. The farmer's market is held at the parking lot of the main campus on Thursdays, from 2 - 5 p.m. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



This little Prairie went to market

Baby Prairie Jo, 13 days old, accompanied her parents, Lacey and Mike Grewe, to the Farmer's Market at Lakewood Health System in Staples July 23. The Grewes own and operate Mother Root Gardens in rural Staples, selling their fresh cut flowers at the farmer's market every Thursday. Lacey said they'd sold out in just 30 minutes that day. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Providing information, assistance

Representatives of Lakewood Health System (LHS), Staples, greeted shoppers at the Farmer's Market July 23, offering assistance and information as needed. From left, Amy Wiese, Farmer's Market

coordinator; Mia Pesta, summer intern at LHS; Jenny Braith, Community Outreach Coordinator at LHS. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Central Lakes College announces 2025 - 2026 graduation List

Central Lakes College, Brainerd and Staples, has announced its 2025 - 26 graduates. These students have completed degree, diploma or certificate programs. High honors students earned a 3.75 - 4.0 grade point average. Honors students earned a 3.25 - 3.74 grade point average.

The list includes all but those students with data privacy requested. Local students named includes:

Motley
High Honors: Scott Dobbs, Cameron Ganyo, Riley Reese, Livia Trif.
Honors: Isaac Calix, Eli Carlson, Owen Carlson, Keith Ferdon, Taylor

Henry, Bailey Rudrud.
Other graduates: Tyler Batton, Wyatt Berg, Luke Bjerga, Jacob Jensen, Brendan Macheel, Shae Macheel, Jennifer Platz, Samuel Zimmermann.

Pillager
High Honors: Kaitlynn Bertram, Mia Bowman, London Zapzalka.
Honors: Eliana Anderson, Brandon Burgau, Isabel Cole, Tessa Eastman, Kalyn Karppinen, Jada Loucks, Gabriel Parrish, Steven VonDali.
Other graduates: Samantha Berent, Nathan Braaten, Bobby Heldman, Stephanie Larson, Isaac Lindberg, Elijah Miller.

Staples
High Honors: Melissa

Jewison, Jorja Kobliska, Pamela Lawrence, Eli Rutten, Annie Schlosser.
Honors: Abby Brichacek, Joseph Fellman, Kieran Groetsch, Avery Japke, Skye Larson, Jessica Lundquist, Axel Mertens, Raina Mikhaeil, Cecily Moe, Rebecca Self, Shawn Spilman, Steffany Sullivan, Colbe Tappe.
Other graduates: Cassandra Back, Joshua Becker, Carol Eblen, Kenzie Erickson, Eric Finch, Kyle Finch, Ben Harvey, Christopher Lindner, Nicholas Peterson, Matthew Sams, Nicholas Sharma, Benjamin Tyrrell, Owen Winter.



Street Improvement Project on target

Crews from J & J Excavating were at work July 23, putting in concrete storm sewer pipes along 4th St. NE in Staples, between Dower and Park Avenues, part of the Street Improvement Project. Brandon DeWolf, Project Manager with Bolton & Menk, said the project is "on target."

He noted that the first part of the project, putting in sanitary sewer and water main had been completed. DeWolf said that there will be access to Staples-Motley Elementary School via Dower Avenue by the start of school. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Young entrepreneurs

Some local youngsters capitalized on the hot weather July 23, selling fresh lemonade to travelers along 5th St. NE in Staples. Pictured, from left, Eli Beach, six; Brysen Sullivan, nine; Sage Beach, ten. The trio reported that they'd been

"very busy" and that business was good. They plan to set up their lemonade stand again, especially if temperatures remain in the 80s and 90s. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Cattle country

Cattle grazed near Staples while their environment changed from sunny to smokey haze hanging over the pasture due to the wildfires burning in northern Minnesota and Canada. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)



Water tower obscured

Enveloped in the heavy smoke July 16, the Staples water tower is barely a shadow, viewed from the 4th St. and Warner Road intersection looking south. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)



Family portrait

The J.D. Payne family, with parents Joyce and Marilyn, center, and children from left, Annette, Jodi, Michael (on floor), Linda and Walter. (Submitted photo)

PAYNE continued from page 1a

Payne family kept researching

in the battle of Mariadorf, Germany on Oct. 8, 1944. He was wounded and was heading back to the aid station to get treatment. He was never seen or heard from again, there is no record of him reaching the aid station.

To supplement the family story, Brieger has compiled a detailed historical account of her grandfather's journey. (See story below)

"I've been telling my husband that I kept my promise to my dad, to keep

researching and looking for my grandpa," said Brieger.

Duane Payne still has family in the Motley area. His sister Iras (Payne) Chapin lived in Staples and died at the age of 102 in 2022. He also had a brother, Ivan Payne, who lived in Motley. His daughter Clarice lived in the Motley area and died in 2009. His son Quentin also lived in Motley.

Brieger's mother, Marilyn (McGillivray) Payne, was from Staples. Marilyn died in 2017.



J.D. and Marilyn Payne's children, back, Linda, Jodi and Annette, front are Walter and Michael. (Submitted photo)

Duane Payne's daughter Clarice lived in the Motley area. She died in 2009



JOURNEY continued from page 1a

Payne, U.S. forces chased German army back to Mariadorf, Germany

the German West Wall. Pvt. Payne and Company L were initially held back to fill any gaps in the American line.

On Oct. 3, Company L led the charge to take the town of Übach.

"The fight for Übach was a slugfest of house-to-house fighting, with the enemy giving ground inch by inch," said Lt. Col S.T. McDowell, an officer in that siege.

The battle lasted four days with the entire 3d Battalion engaged in close quarter fighting. By Oct. 7, they had taken Übach and the company was encamped in the village of Boscheln, looking out at two miles of open ground to the town of Alsdorf, their next target. The 3d Battalion reportedly had high morale entering the open terrain, possibly because it would be different than the bitter house-to-house fighting at Übach.

On the morning of the assault of Alsdorf, the Americans reached the town so fast that the Germans were caught off guard and had to retreat.

Mariadorf

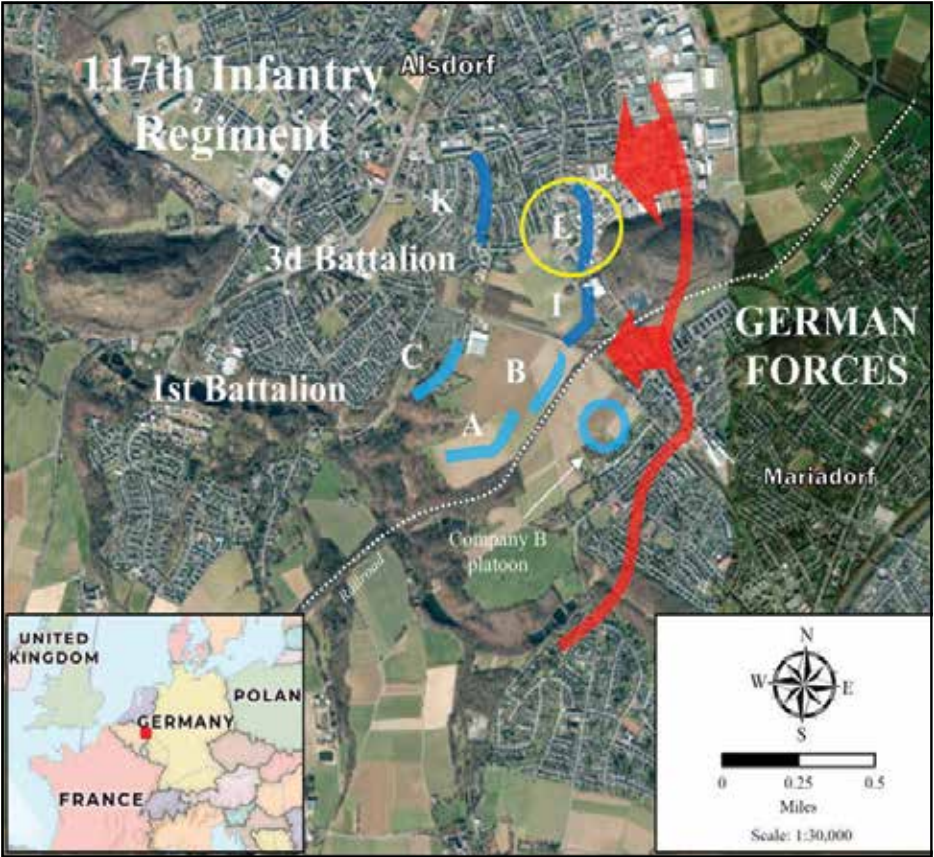
On Oct. 8, the 1st and 3d Battalions were ordered to continue their attack to Mariadorf. Today, Alsdorf and Mariadorf are nearly touching, with just a couple of small fields between them. In 1944 when the Americans were advancing, there was more open space.

Company L was on the left flank of the advance towards Mariadorf. They met heavy resistance and had to set up their line behind a railroad track between the two towns. The German forces mounted a counterattack, focusing on the left flank, where Payne and Company L attempted to hold them off.

The Company L mortar section was overrun and the German troops began to use the mortar tubes against the Americans. Company L counterattacked and recaptured the equipment.

The Germans also made ground against Company I and captured a sergeant, before a soldier fired a rifle that hit the German security guard holding him. German troops broke through portions of the 3d Battalion's line and engaged the American infantry in close combat, sometimes with bayonets. Company B was overrun and all 27 members were killed or captured.

Despite the setbacks, the Americans did not allow the recapture of Alsdorf. They destroyed several German tanks and the battle came to



Battle site

Looking at a modern aerial image of Alsdorf and Mariadorf, Germany, with the World War II battle map superimposed on top. Duane Payne's Company L is circled. His likely place of death is near the left

side of that circle, as he headed back to Alsdorf for medical treatment. The dotted line is the railroad track that the Americans could not pass during a month of fighting. (Submitted image)

a stalemate.

Somewhere in this, it was learned that Pvt. Payne had been wounded and was heading back to the medical aid station at Alsdorf for treatment. There was no more record of him after that and it was believed that he never reached the medical station.

The stretch between Alsdorf and Mariadorf was contested ground for a month, preventing American troops from conducting a full search and survey.

It took a massive push in November to capture Mariadorf. Once they had a chance to survey the field, no trace of Private Payne was listed. Six months later, the war ended with Payne still MIA. One year and one day after his loss, the War Department issued a presumptive finding of death.

Graves and memorials

Following the war, graves registration teams scoured former battlefields, crash sites and local cemeteries for the remains of fallen American service members. This process was not coordinated, so U.S. officials had a hard time tracking the results.

An investigation team in 1947 found that there were as many as 17 sets of American remains found in the battle area near Alsdorf. German residents had recovered remains from a minefield and placed them in wooden caskets, which the U.S. military picked up but were unable to identify Pvt. Payne in any of them. In 1950, he was listed as "non-recoverable."

The unidentified soldiers were laid to rest in the American War Cemetery at Margraten, Netherlands (Holland), just over the border from Germany.

During her research, Brieger learned that her grandfather's name was on the MIA wall at that cemetery.

When she discovered that, she was comforted to know that he was never forgotten and the people of the Netherlands still honored his memory.

Reclamation

In modern times, a renewed effort to identify military MIA was started. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) was formed in 2015 as a combination of three agencies. They connect modern technology with knowledgeable historians to solve long-lost military mysteries.

Brieger said about five years ago, she got a call from the agency saying that they were in active pursuit of her grandfather's remains.

Her own research helped them with their quest.

"I've spent hours and hours of research," said Brieger. "I have news clippings from the paper there of when he went missing, and clippings from when he was reported MIA."

The DPAA historians determined that only four American soldiers were still unaccounted for in that battle, and for one unidentified body they pared that down to two possibilities based on dental records. The remains were exhumed in July of 2025 and sent to the DPAA laboratory in Nebraska.

"That was when things started to turn around," said Brieger.

Brieger's two brothers agreed to submit DNA to test it against the unidentified remains.

Duane Walter Payne was officially identified in March of 2026. His grandchildren got the phone call on April 2.

"It's been a long journey, we're kind of still in shock," Brieger said, after 82 years of not knowing.

With the identification of Pvt. Payne, the cemetery at Margraten has added a

rosette design next to his name on the wall to show that he has been found. His final resting place will now be at Camp Ripley Military Cemetery, a 30 minute drive from his home in Motley.

Brieger now lives in Arkansas and said she is not done with her researching. She plans to go to the DPAA facility in Nebraska to get more details about how they identified her grandfather and what they learned in the process. She is looking forward to coming back to Minnesota in September, as she was born in Brainerd and her parents were from Motley and Staples.



WWII salute

Duane W. Payne posed for photos before heading to World War II. (Submitted photos)



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